

COMPARISON OF PRE-RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS FOR CalPERS MEMBERS – POLICE & FIRE

NOT JOB RELATED DEATH

Not Eligible to retire: Under age 50, or age 50 or over with less than five years of CalPERS-credited service.

Basic Death Benefit

Your beneficiary will receive a lump-sum payment of:

1. a refund of your contributions, plus interest, and
2. up to six months' pay (one month's salary rate for each year of current service to a maximum of six months).

Your beneficiary would be determined as follows:

1. your named beneficiary*, or if none,
2. spouse, or if none,
3. your children, or if none,
4. parents, or if none,
5. brothers and sisters, or if none,
6. estate if probated, or if not,
7. trust, or if none,
8. next of kin, as provided by law.

AND 1959 Survivor Benefit (next page)

Note: The 1959 Survivor Benefit is explained on the next page.

***Named Beneficiary:** To designate a beneficiary, or update an earlier designation, you must fill out a *CalPERS Beneficiary Designation* (State Form 241). This form is available from your Payroll/Personnel Assistant or the City's Retirement Counselor. Certain death benefits allow you to name anyone you choose as a beneficiary. If you name a beneficiary and then (1) marry, (2) initiate an annulment, or dissolution of marriage, (3) have a child or adopt a child, or (4) terminate your employment and receive a refund of your contributions, your designation will, by law, be revoked.

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NOT JOB RELATED DEATH

Eligible to retire: Age 50 or over with a minimum of five years of CalPERS-credited service.

Optional Settlement 2 Death Benefit

Your spouse, if married to you *either* before the occurrence of the injury or the onset of the illness that resulted in your death *or* for at least one year before your death, will receive a monthly allowance equal to the amount you would have received if you had retired for service on the date of your death and elected Option 2W. The benefit is payable to your spouse until death. Upon the death of your spouse the benefit will continue to your natural or adopted unmarried children under age 18.

OR

1957 Survivor Benefit

This benefit provides for a monthly allowance equal to ½ of what your highest service retirement allowance would have been had you retired on the date of your death. Those eligible to receive this allowance are:

1. your spouse, if married to you *either* before the occurrence of the injury or the onset of the illness that resulted in your death *or* for at least one year before your death, until death; or
2. your natural or adopted unmarried children under age 18 (if you have no eligible spouse).

OR

Basic Death Benefit

The Basic Death Benefit will be paid if:

1. no one is eligible for the monthly allowance above, or
2. someone who is eligible for the monthly allowance chooses instead to receive the Basic Death Benefit.

Your beneficiary will receive a lump-sum payment of:

1. a refund of your contributions, plus interest, and
2. up to six months' pay (one month's salary rate for each year of current service to a maximum of six months).

Your beneficiary would be determined as follows:

1. your spouse, if married to you *either* before the occurrence of the injury or the onset of the illness that resulted in your death *or* for at least one year before your death, or if no eligible spouse
2. unmarried children under age 18, or if none,
3. your named beneficiary*, or if none,
4. your spouse (if married for less than one year), or if none,
5. children other than those mentioned in 2 above, or if none,
6. parents, or if none,
7. brothers and sisters, or if none,
8. estate if probated, if not;
9. trust, or if none;
10. next of kin, as by law

AND 1959 SURVIVOR BENEFIT (next page)

JOB-RELATED DEATH

Eligible to retire or not

Special Death Benefit:

Your surviving spouse or children may receive a monthly allowance equal to ½ of your final compensation. If the cause of death is some external violence or physical force while on the job, and there are eligible surviving children in addition to your spouse, the allowance may be increased to a maximum of 75%.

The Special Death Benefit is payable to your surviving spouse until death, or to your unmarried children until age 22. To be eligible, your spouse must have been married to you *either* before the occurrence of the injury or the onset of the illness that resulted in your death *or* for at least one year before your death.

OR

Basic Death Benefit

The Basic Death Benefit will be paid if:

1. no one is eligible for the monthly allowance above, or
2. someone who is eligible for the monthly allowance chooses instead to receive the Basic Death Benefit.

Your beneficiary will receive a lump-sum payment of:

1. a refund of your contributions, plus interest, and
2. up to six months' pay (one month's salary rate for each year of current service to a maximum of six months).

Your beneficiary would be determined as follows:

1. your named beneficiary*, or if none,
2. spouse, or if none,
3. your children, or if none,
4. parents, of if none,
5. brothers and sisters, or if none,
6. estate if probated, or if not,
7. trust, or if none,
8. next of kin, as provided by law.

AND 1959 Survivor Benefit

If your survivors receive a monthly allowance for the Special Death Benefit, their 1959 Survivor Benefit will be reduced by the amount they receive every month for the Special Death Benefit. This means the only amount payable will be the amount which exceeds the Special Death Benefit.

1959 SURVIVOR BENEFIT

The 1959 Survivor Benefit provides a monthly allowance to eligible survivors of members who were covered for this benefit program and died before retirement. The allowance is payable in addition to any other pre-retirement death benefit paid by CalPERS, with the exception of the Special Death Benefit. If the 1959 Survivor Benefit is greater than the Special Death Benefit, then the difference is paid as the 1959 Survivor Benefit.

Eligible Survivors:

Spouse: A surviving spouse is a husband or wife who was legally married to the member either one year before the member's death, or before the occurrence of the injury or onset of the illness that resulted in the member's death. A surviving spouse is entitled to the 1959 Survivor Benefit if he or she (1) has care of eligible children, or (2) is age 60 or older. A surviving spouse may remarry and continue to receive their allowance.

Children: An unmarried child of the member, or an unmarried stepchild (if the child was living with the member in a parent-child relationship) is eligible for benefits while under age 22. An unmarried child incapacitated because of a disability which began before attaining age 22 may be entitled to the benefit until the disability ends. If a child is in the care of a guardian or is living on their own, the child's portion of the benefit is payable to the guardian or to the child directly, rather than to the surviving spouse.

Parents: A parent may be eligible if there is no surviving spouse or eligible children, and the parent(s) was dependent on the member for at least half of their support at the time of the member's death.

Monthly Benefits:

Spouse with two or more eligible children; or three or more eligible children only	\$2,280
Spouse with one eligible child; or two eligible children only	\$1,900
One eligible child only; or surviving spouse age 60 or older; or, dependent parents	\$950

Taxability of the Benefit: The 1959 Survivor Benefit is a taxable allowance and will be reported by CalPERS to the tax authorities each year on a Form 1099R. There are some cases where the surviving spouse may avoid the withholding. They are encouraged to call CalPERS at (800) 352-2238 for answers regarding their specific tax questions.